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The garden army in 1919. 1919.

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UNITED STATES SCHOOL GARDEN ARMY DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON

THE GARDEN ARMY IN 1919

THE GARDEN season for 1919 is again at hand. Thousands of teachers who have been using the Garden Army leaflets will find their pupils eager for the real work of the outdoor gardens. This work will mean more to the pupils if they are organized into companies of the great National School Garden Army and furnished with the insignia and service flags that we send free to all enlisted soldiers.

Even if complete summer supervision cannot be provided it will be worth while to organize the pupils into companies. It is only necessary to have them sign the enlistment sheet and to appoint three of the more mature pupils as officers—a captain, a first lieutenant and a second lieutenant. These officers may be of much assistance to the teacher or supervisor in reporting when the gardens are planted and how well they are being cared for. They may also be helpful in many other ways—in finding garden sites, in writing requests for seeds and bulletins, in arranging exhibits and helping the pupils to sell their surplus vegetables.

Soon after the School Garden Army was organized it became evident that it had the elements of permanence because it fitted in so well with school conditions in practically all the States. The response to the idea it represented was instant and nation-wide. The demand for the continuance of the organization has been insistent and well-nigh universal. The funds available enable the Bureau of Education to continue the work on a large scale for the summer of 1919, and justify it in planning for the continuation of the Army through future years.

It is evident that school-supervised gardening has already become an integral part of the school curriculum in most of the States. The United States School Garden Army is the needed national organization to give the children the patriotic and Americanizing impulse that makes the work, as Secretary Lane has said, one of the most important educational movements of recent times.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO ORGANIZATION

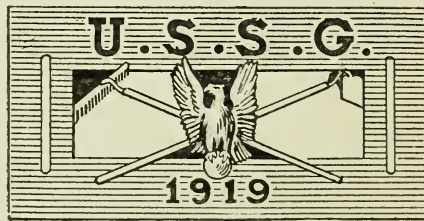
The plan of the Garden Army is so simple that it is easily applied under greatly varying conditions. The ideal way is to have a company in each school room consisting of all the pupils, thus carrying out the motto of the Army:

“A GARDEN FOR EVERY CHILD EVERY CHILD IN A GARDEN”

When this is not possible, however, the company can be organized with those pupils who have garden opportunities either in a single room or several rooms of the building. There are no age limits, and any child who is able to take care of even a very small garden is eligible for enlistment.

The School Garden Army exists primarily as an organization of children who are doing garden work under school supervision. The gardens they work in may be in connection with the school, in vacant lots, or at the home.

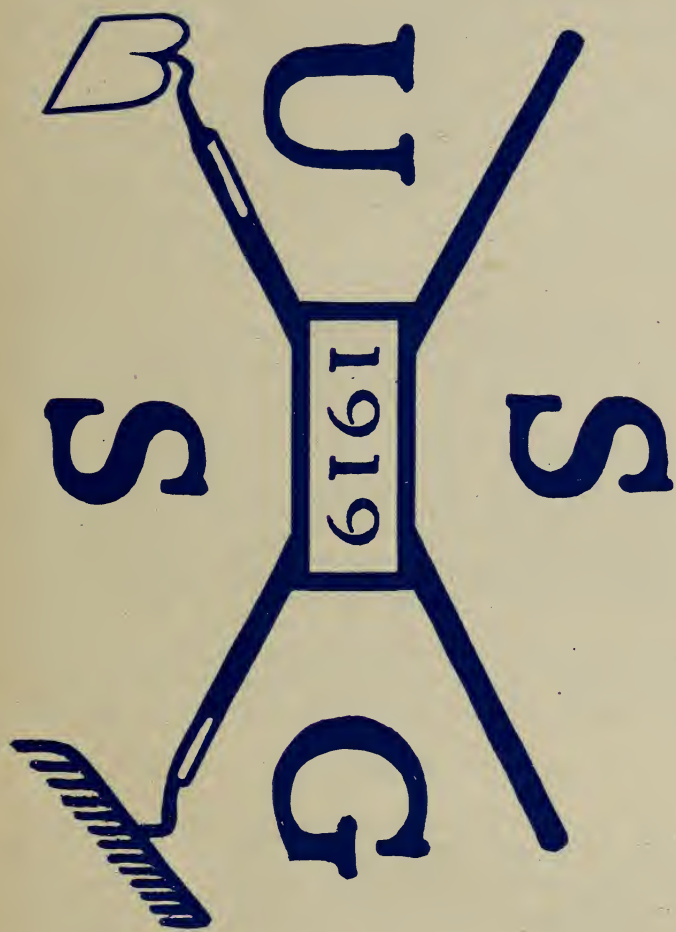
Any organization of school children now doing garden work will be eligible to enlistment. Such organizations may keep their existing form, if they so desire, and have the additional impetus of belonging to a national army fostered by President Wilson, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Commissioner of Education. The aim of this army is to nationalize and unify the great work now being carried on among the school children of America.



CAPTAIN

THE INSIGNIA

The insignia for 1919 are decidedly more attractive than those of last year. Each has the figures 1919 upon it. That for the captain has the effect of a double bar, while those for the lieutenants are gilt with one star for the first lieutenant and two stars for the second lieutenant. That for the private has no star. These insignia will be furnished free for each enlisted pupil.



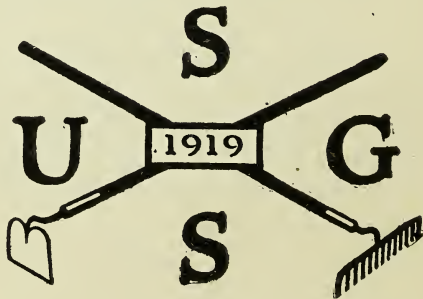
SECRETARY LANE'S SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE SCHOOL GARDEN ARMY

“A MILLION and a half of you answered the call last year; there should be five million this year.

“The war is over; but the world is only beginning to be rebuilt. In many parts of Europe farms and the men to farm them are no more; yet the world must be fed.

“Food is the key to most of the problems of Europe. The United States School Garden Army has it in its power to be a big help to the nations in the task of feeding the world. Every garden added to the number planted last year means another step toward lasting peace.

“The boys and girls who have liberty gardens in 1919, the garden army officers who assist in keeping the Army efficient, and the teachers who direct the work, will render a patriotic service to be compared only to that of the men who won the war.”—FRANKLIN K. LANE, *Secretary of the Interior*.



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